

Representative Sayer and Senator Handley,

My name is Daisy Carrasco, and I am here to share my hopes for how we can improve Senate Bill #1. I appreciate that you are trying to do something about the health care crisis here in Connecticut, and I believe we have the opportunity to do much more for the uninsured than this proposed bill.

I work in my home eight hours a day as a licensed child care provider and a foster parent. I am licensed to care for nine kids with my assistant.

Child care involves a lot of responsibility. I am not a babysitter, and I have many roles. At times I am a nurse, and often I am an educator; I have been providing “my” kids with nutritious meals and snacks before you passed the law the required schools had to serve nutritious snacks and drinks.

I have been a child care provider for twenty years because I love kids. I need to think of my own health, too, because I don't have insurance, and if I cannot work I, cannot fulfill my obligations to these kids.

My need for health care weighs on me because I have several personal health issues. Doctor bills, as well as the cost for eyeglasses, dentists, different lab tests, and medications are very high.

I am 52 now. I have high blood pressure and I need to get a blood analysis. I would also like to get a flu shot. In fact, I didn't have the colonoscopy that doctors recommend for all women at 50.

About a week ago I had an infection. I didn't go to the doctor because I was afraid it would cost too much. I even took medication without getting my doctors' advice first.

We need health care that covers all of these needs. We need a health plan that stays with us when we are not working.

As an in-home child care provider, my income is very unpredictable. My earnings can drop at any time without much warning. The reimbursements from the State for child care providers can vary a great deal, and I worry about how I'll pay my bills.

I'm here today to as one of over 4,000 licensed in-home child care providers who are concerned about the high cost of health care. I'm here for all child care providers who have had to give up working with

kids because the high cost of health care drove them to better paying jobs.

I'm here today for my friend Felicita, who is also an at-home child care provider like myself. She suffers from diabetes, and is unable to stay healthy because she cannot afford insurance.

I'm also here for the parents of the children we care for, who are very concerned they won't have enough providers like me to care for their kids. I know that parents need us so they can work themselves. In fact, the mothers of all the children I care for are single and work. They must constantly worry about how they would keep their jobs if I became ill and could not care for their kids!

I'm here to urge you to improve this bill. At-home providers like myself are uniting in CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 to make improvements in early childhood care and education in Connecticut. We believe that you can make this bill better for the families and kids we care for by making it provide single-payer health care for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Daisy Carrasco

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